

Today's News - Wednesday, May 19, 2010

- A ray of hope: April saw the demand for U.S. architects rise to the highest level since January 2008 (fingers crossed the trend continues!).
- A call for revamping of complex tax codes to encourage walkable, mixed-use development and mass transit instead of current situation that favors sprawl and traffic congestion (what a concept!).
- The Russians are coming to Caracas to help create a plan for the development of the city up to 2020 (slum clearing included).
- Ban builds in Haiti: "I usually find a community that has slipped through the cracks and is without government support."
- India lays out some ambitious projects for Chandigarh, Haryana, and Punjab to boost tourism (a little night music, perhaps?).
- Hawthorne visits Gehry's Ruvo Center in Las Vegas and likes what he sees: it is "riotously sculptural" with "a deep, affecting humanism at the building's core."
- Rochon on the reinvention of Toronto's former hockey cathedral - a prime example of vertical design (take heed, oh ye planners of sprawling arenas on the waterfront).
- Russia sets its eye on the 2018 World Cup with massive investment in football infrastructure (an amazing slide show of proposed stadiums - unfortunately, no architects credited).
- Poletti ponders the sad state of Neutra's VDL Studio in L.A.: "as the recession - and the California rain - starts to ebb, supporters hope more funding will follow."
- Dallas church breaks fundraising records, but misses its mark; fortunately, it will need to make "only a few tweaks" to planned design.
- An eyeful of what the Triennale di Milano's NYC digs will look like on W. 53rd Street (we can't wait!).
- University of Cincinnati students tackle hospital signs that don't work with solutions that are easy to follow no matter your language or reading level.
- Anderton's roundtable tackles oil, plastic, and stuff, and the rebirth of the LAX Theme Building.
- A good reason to be in London next Tuesday: the Royal Geographical Society takes on "Natural disasters: how can we improve?"
- Tokyo kicks off "open! architecture" on Friday in anticipation of hosting UIA2011.
- An eyeful of AIA San Francisco 2010 Design Award winners.
- Call for entries: New Orleans's DesCours 2010 is looking for experimental, cutting-edge architecture and art installations; Holland Prize will recognize the best drawing of a historic building, site, or structure; and students wanted for mantownhuman's "Critical Subjects" Architecture & Design Winter School in London (full disclosure: yours truly is on advisory panel).

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[Slump in Demand for U.S. Architects May Be Near End: Demand rose last month to the highest level since January 2008...Architecture Billings Index climbed to 48.5 from 46.1 in March, the third straight monthly increase...](#) - Bloomberg/BusinessWeek

[Revamping Tax Code Key to Making Livable Communities A Bigger Reality, says AIA Report: ...complex tax code that encourages sprawl and traffic congestion at the expense of "walkable," mixed-use development and mass transit.](#) - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

[Moscow experts to aid Chavez in clearing Caracas slums: Russian and Venezuelan authorities signed an agreement to create the plan for the development of Caracas up to 2020..."Our architects have great experience in designing seismic-resistant high rise buildings"](#) - RIA Novosti (Russia)

[Shigeru Ban Aims to Build Waterproof Shelters in Haiti: Designed for easy construction by an unskilled labor force, each 161-square-foot, barn-shaped unit consists of a paper tube frame covered with plastic tarps...all materials can be procured locally at a cost of \\$300 per shelter. \[slide show\]](#) - Architectural Record

[Union Tourism and Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation Minister Releases Progress of Tourism Related Projects...for Chandigarh, Haryana and Punjab: Sanctions a Unique Project for Promotion of Night Tourism in Chandigarh -- Le Corbusier; Chandigarh College of Architecture - Government of India](#)

[Frank Gehry's Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas: In some ways, this new design is a throwback to his studies in incompleteness, but there's a story to be told there...riotously sculptural...the story is about the depths - and ultimately the limits - of the human mind...a deep, affecting humanism at the building's core. By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times](#)

[Lighting up Maple Leaf Gardens: The red and blue seats are gone, as former hockey cathedral is reinvented...already, there's a Phoenix-like promise...a prime example of the vertical design that is being considered as an alternative to sprawling arenas at the Lower Don Lands site. By Lisa Rochon -- Ross and Macdonald Architects \(1931\); Turner Fleischer; Brisbin Brook Beynon \[slide show\]](#) - Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Russia to invest \\$340 million in football infrastructure: ...looks to win the right to host the 2018 World Cup...13 new stadiums would be built for the tournament...even if Russia was unsuccessful in its bid, "we will build six stadiums in any case." \[slide show\]](#) - RIA Novosti (Russia)

[A Modern Dilemma: Neutra's Los Angeles Home Needs Work: ...one of the only of the architect's houses open to the public...as the recession - and the California rain - starts to ebb, the house's supporters hope more funding will follow. By Therese Poletti -- Sarah Lorenzen/Neutra VDL Studio and Residences; Dion Neutra; Marmol Radziner \[images, links\]](#) - Preservation magazine

[First Baptist Dallas raises \\$115M, sets record: ...only a few tweaks have been made to the church's plans as a result of the shortfall. -- The Beck Group \[image\]](#) - Dallas Business Journal

[The Italians Are Coming! An effort at boosting Italian culture abroad will](#)

[get a splashy new outpost in New York...\[for\] Triennale di Milano... -- Michele De Lucchi; Pierluigi Cerri; CUH2A \[images\]- Fast Company](#)

[UC Design Innovation: "Signs that Work": Healing for Hospital Signs That Don't Work: A sign redesign project is seeking to produce healthier hospital signage that's easy to follow no matter your language or reading level. 15 designs by students in UC's design programs were selected for inclusion in the new system. \[slide show\]- University of Cincinnati](#)

[DnA/Frances Anderton: Oil, Plastic and the Stuff that Surrounds Us + A Landmark Relaunches: LAX Theme Building -- William Pereira/Charles Luckman/Paul Williams/Welton Becket/James Langenheim \(1961\); Chris Lefteri; Scott Markle; Millard Lee/Gin Wong Associates; Alastair Gordon - KCRW \(Los Angeles\)](#)

[Natural disasters: how can we improve? ...discussion will cover how we are learning from natural disasters, improvements in our response, coordination of large and small NGOs, the role of the local communities and the private sector in long term recovery...May 25, London -- Cameron Sinclair/Architecture for Humanity; etc. - Royal Geographical Society \(UK\)](#)

[Tokyo has designs on congress: ...will host the triennial congress of the International Union of Architects...UIA2011 Tokyo organizers have been holding a series of annual open houses..."open! architecture"...May 21 till June 13...will give curious observers the chance to peek inside several buildings that are usually closed to the public. - Japan Times](#)

[AIA SF 2010 Design Awards -- Leddy Maytum Stacy; WRNS Studio; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Jensen Architects/Jensen & Macy Architects; Stanley Saitowitz/Natoma Architects; Garavaglia Architecture; Nadel; SmithGroup; Min | Day; Baldauf Catton Von Eckartsberg; Schwartz and Architecture; IwamotoScott; etc. \[images\]- AIA San Francisco](#)

[Call for entries/proposals: DesCours 2010: a week-long, contemporary architecture and art event that looks towards the future in showcasing experimental, cutting-edge new media and interactive installations in New Orleans; deadline: June 14- AIA New Orleans](#)

[Call for entries: Leicester B. Holland Prize will recognize the best single-sheet measured drawing of an historic building, site, or structure; registration deadline: May 31- National Park Service](#)

[Call for entries: Competition Launch: mantownhuman "Critical Subjects" Architecture & Design Winter School, November 17-18, London; opportunity for 20 or so of the keenest students in the UK to engage in a series of intellectual architectural design challenges led by leading names in the field; deadline: August 10- mantownhuman \(UK\)](#)

[An Open Letter to Susan Szenasy re: Frank Gehry: Susan, I love and admire you. But I think you are wrong... By Fred Bernstein- ArchNewsNow](#)



[Under construction: Gehry Partners: New World Symphony, Miami, Florida](#)

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